had said long ago that what was a treaty but a scrap of paper. Various charges against the Baltic peoples were trumped up, the chief one: the three little republics, with a total population of 6,000,000, had formed a secret military alliance against the Soviet giant with a population of over 180,000,000. After a lightning ultimatum on June 15, 1940, hundreds of Russian tanks rolled into Lithuania, followed by tens of thousands of Red Army troops. A similar fate befell Latvia and Estonia on June 16th. There was no time to organize any real resistance.

After that there was only unrelieved tragedy. The legitimate government was removed, a puppet government, chosen by Soviet emissaries, was installed. By August 3rd, Lithuania was incorporated into the Soviet Union as its "14th Republic." Free association was immediately forbidden, with patriotic and religious organizations abolished first. Then came the turn of the press: of 140 publications, only 26 were left temporarily, under the strictest censorship. All schools were put under Communist control. All land holdings, banks, commercial and industrial enterprises, all means of communications were nationalized. Even private homes above the smallest, were taken over. Bank deposits were confiscated. Even the very large state pension fund was expropriated: only those who had served the Soviet Republic were entitled to pensions; as a result, in the winter of 1940-1941 old people died of hunger and cold by the hundred.

In one terrible year of Soviet domination the cultural and economic achievement of twenty-two years of incessant toil seemed doomed for destruction.

But the greatest horror was that perpetrated against the Lithuanian people as such. The Soviet occupants knew that the Lithuanians would not submit tamely: their character and their history was against it. Therefore, even before the formal incorporation of the country, thousands of her notable people were arrested: former government officials, army officers, political and religious leaders, educators, people active in organizations of whatever kind. Many were subjected to torture, others shot, still others exiled to Russia and Siberia (many "conveniently" died on the way). That was still not enough. In the spring of 1941, the occupants drew up lists of 700,000 people who were to be deported. Between June 13 and 18, some 40,000 men, women and children were rounded up at night by Soviet secret agents, packed into crowded cattle cars which had been boarded up, leaving only a hole in the floor for ventilation and sanitation.

Sent on the frightful journey to Siberia with little food and water, many died even before the trains left Lithuanian territory. Horror-stricken people picked up bodies of mothers and new-born babies from the railroad tracks over which the trains had passed. Only the outbreak of hostilities between Germans and Russians on June 22nd stopped the deportation for the time being.

The Lithuanians resisted the forced Russification and communization as best they could. They had an undergound organization known as the Activist Front which even issued a clandestine newspaper. The red flag was repeatedly torn down and the Lithuanian national flag raised in its stead. No chance was lost of ridiculing the Soviets and the local Communists. Communist rallies were shunned.

On June 22nd, even before the German troops marched into Lithuania, open revolt broke out. Russian soldiers guarding arsenals were overwhelmed and disarmed. Partisans (guerillas) seized the Kaunas radio station and all government buildings. A new Declaration of Independence was proclaimed, a provisional government appointed. Thousands of prisoners were released. Soon the partisans controlled all the principal cities. By June 27th, the Russians were completely driven out of Lithuania. Some four thousand Lithuanians were killed, about ten thousand wounded, out of the 35,000 organized and some 90,000 unorganized people who had taken part in the revolt. Some 10,000 Lithuanian soldiers, earlied incorporated into the Red Army, managed to join the insurgents.

THE SECOND GERMAN OCCUPATION

A considerable part of Lithuania again lay in ruins, devastated by the advancing Germans or retreating Russians. But enthusiasm ran wild. The Provisional Government proved very able and the administrative apparatus began to function almost normally. Hopes ran high that freedom was regained. Surely the Germans would recognize the Lithuanian contribution to the ousting of the Soviets. But the Germans refused to recognize the government chosen by the insurgents as an independent régime; it was to be a puppet government in their service. The Lithuanian premier and his ministers refused to cooperate and resigned. The brief episode of freedom, bought at such high